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To the Democratic Voters of Florida.
Under the present system of nomi-
nating your public servants for
office, each of you have a right to
say who shall be your nominees.
It being impossible for the indi-
vidual voter to know, personally,
each candidate who offers himself
for a State office, the undersigned
introduces himself to you through
the medium of the press. Judges
of the courts of Florida have never
made it a practice to solicit votes
by PERSONAL appeal. Members of
the railroad commission are judges.
They decide certain matters between
the great corporations and the peo-
ple. It would be unfair, therefore,
while others are attending to the
duties they are paid to perform, for
another individual seeking the posi-
tion to take advantage of this.
I live at Lake City, Florida; I
am a candidate for Railroad Com-
missioner; I am Virginian by
birth; entered the Confederate
navy when 12 years of age, and
surrendered with the naval forces
under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, at
Greensboro, N. C., in 1865; I have
resided in Florida for over 23 years;
have been in the newspaper busi-
ness all that time; have diligently
and faithfully worked for the up-
building and development of the
State during all these years, and
my every effort in the future will
be to that end, in whatever posi-
tion I may hold; am thoroughly
acquainted with the wants and
needs of every section of Florida,
as my acquaintanceship and travel
has led me at times into every
county within its borders; have
twice been chosen to represent you
in Democratic National Conven-
tions; have been connected with
the State Senate in Florida since
1887, most of the time as Secre-
tary; and can confidently refer, as
to my faithful attention to the
duties imposed upon me, to any
member of the Legislature during
that time, as well as to the records
in the archives of the State, it be-
ing a fact that these records have
never been attacked in the courts.
Railroad commissions of nearly
all the States of the Union have,
where the powers given are judi-
ciously exercised, proven of great
benefit to the general public, and
there is no reason why Florida
should be an exception to the rule.
Experience has pointed out defects
in our railroad commission law
that are being remedied by the
Legislature at each session, and by
this process, within a few years, we
will doubtless have a law that will
be all that it should be in the in-
terest of the people.
I am confident of my ability to
fill the office acceptably and efficient-
ly, and pledge myself, if nominat-
ed and afterwards elected, to ad-
minister the duties of the office
fairly and impartially.
The State of Florida has wonder-
ful possibilities before it, and in my
humble opinion no agency can be
such a potent factor in its develop-
ment as the railroad commission.
For this reason the voter should
weigh carefully the claims of every
one who offers for the place. This
announcement is a direct personal
appeal to you individually. Two
members of the board are to be
selected. I want to be one of them.
I want your vote and support.
Should you choose me, I promise
that you will never have cause to
regret it.
I believe my large acquaintanceship
in your county, DeSoto, to
whom I refer you, will vouch for
my fitness for the office.
As any loyal Democrat would do,
I pledge myself to abide by the
result of the primary, and will sup-
port the nominees thereof at the
regular election.
Very respectfully,
T. J. APPLEYARD.
Lake City, Fla., April 9, 1906.

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